

OBJECTIVE 3.8 Identify acceptable collision avoidance methods for use during an emergency response.

INTRODUCTION

While responding to an emergency, the urgency for response, increased speeds, and emotional involvement tend to distract the officer from the perceptual demands of driving. Collision avoidance maneuvers become more critical and necessary as the driving and pedestrian public react or fail to react to emergency warning devices.

CONTENT

There are various methods that can be used for collision avoidance.

1. Quick, sudden braking
2. Evasive steering or sudden lane change
 - a. Usually performed when the driver's intended path-of-travel is suddenly blocked by an object, pedestrian, or other vehicle
 - b. The driver should position the hands at the 9-3 steering location (see Objective 2.14 for more details).
 - c. The driver should turn the steering wheel no more than 1/2 rotation in the necessary direction, and return the wheel twice as far in the opposite direction, and finally straighten the wheel. A third steering movement of a lesser amount may be necessary to keep the back end from swaying.
 - d. This maneuver requires available roadway to the sides, allowing for lateral vehicle positioning.
3. Clearing intersections
 - a. Allow for other users to adjust to the law enforcement vehicle's approach.
 - b. Adjust speed to allow other users to see and hear the emergency warning devices.

- c. Use quick, yet thorough, searching methods to clear the intersection to the left, front, and right streets.
- d. Look for additional emergency response vehicles.
- e. Change siren pattern to attract attention with a different sound.

Assuming a collision will happen, there are ways to reduce injury and damage to the vehicle.

1. Avoid having the collision take place in the driver's quarter of the vehicle.
2. Try to strike the object on an angle, thus deflecting some of the impact forces.
3. Maintain steering and braking control to avoid colliding with additional objects after the first collision.

SUMMARY

The officer should attempt to drive in a manner which will not require the use of collision avoidance maneuvers. However, under emergency response conditions, the potential for collision avoidance maneuvers increases. By identifying these methods and identifying personal skills, the student can choose the most appropriate collision avoidance maneuver when necessary.

SUGGESTED INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY

Refer to the Suggested Instructional Methodology for Objective 2.14. Modify the methods to emphasize emergency response driving.

LECTURE WITH SLIDES

Show slides of various intersections and ask members of the class to identify where the problems may come from while approaching each intersection. Ask class members how they could best use speed control, lane positioning and communication to solve each of the identified problems. The instructor should give feedback to each student's response and ask other members of the class what they think about the response.

Have students seated so that their left shoulders are pointing at the screen. Project a slide of an intersection, then have the students turn their head to the left for one second, and have them

describe what key elements they were able to see in one second. Then have them see another slide for two seconds and describe what they saw. This activity will demonstrate to the students how a fixation must be made in order to actually see. Explain that the faster the vehicle travels through an intersection, the less time one will have to adequately scan the intersection.

SMALL GROUP

Divide the class into groups of 3-6 students. Ask the groups to list and be able to explain a correct procedure for approaching and clearing an intersection during an emergency response. After ample time, have one group explain its procedure to the class. Allow the students to interact. List on the chalkboard the procedures as recommended in this outline.

RANGE

Using a practice driving area, the instructor demonstrates each of the maneuvers to the students using the correct methods.

RESOURCES AND AIDS

1. Materials from driver training courses offered at the university level
2. Materials from driver training courses conducted by nationally recognized specialists
3. Practice driving areas
4. Driver training vehicles

SUGGESTED EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

STUDENTS

Written or verbal responses to questions concerning collision avoidance maneuvering

COURSE

1. Observe on-the-job performance.
2. Review agency collision reports.